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Protective factors for suicidal black females.

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to evaluate the extent to which a model of social **support** may **help** explain the low **suicide** rate of Black females. The data are taken from the National Institute of Mental Health's Epidemiological Catchment Area Study 1980-1985 (United States). The LISREL model examines the direct and indirect effects of the background characteristics on attempted **suicide** as mediated by emotional state. Results indicate evidence that for Black and White males and females, finding emotional and psychological **support** in friends and family members helps to safeguard against **suicide**. The most substantial finding is that for all race/sex categories, **seeking support** from friendship and familial resources is negatively related to attempted **suicide**, whereas **seeking support** from professional resources is associated with an increase in the likelihood of a **suicide** attempt. This increased likelihood of attempted **suicide** may be reflecting populations members' resistance to **seeking** professional **help** until their emotional state has severely deteriorated.

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MeSH Terms

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